LIBRARY

DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR 1946

Dr. C.T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P; L.R.C.S.; D.P.H.

D O W N H A M M A R K E T U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. C.E. Bowman, Chairman.

Mr. H. Alflatt.
C.F. Bennett.
Mrs. G.B.E. Bennett.
Mr. A.E. Boothby.
Mr. E.P. English.
J. Hinton.
W. Revell.
E.A. Walker.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Dr. James Gibb. M.A.; M.B.; Ch.B;

SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR
D.J. Diver. M. Inst. M & Cty.E. A.R.S.I.

STOKE FERRY,

November, 1947.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Downham Market.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit on behalf of Dr. James Gibb, your late Medical Officer - the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year ending 31st. December, 1946.

Owing to a general change over of staff it is impossible for me to give anything but a very abridged report for the year under review.

Mr. Diver, your late Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor retired owing to ill health in March, 1947 and the post then became vacant.

I am sure Dr. James Gibb would like me to express his deep appreciation for the help and guidance he has received from the Councillors and staff during his tenure of office.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1946

Area (in acres).....1003
Population 1931 (Census.....2,465
Population 1946.....2,571
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (..... 750 approx.
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1946..... 820 approx.
Rateable value 1946.....£12,523
Product of a penny rate 1946.....£48.

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female	Rate Downham Market.	Rate Administrative County.
Legitimate.....	38	17	21	16.3	20.94
Illegitimate.....	4	3	1		
	42	20	22		

STILLBIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate Downham Mkt.	Rate AD. C.
Legitimate.....	3	2	1	1.16	24.63
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-		
	3	2	1		

DEATHS (all causes.

Total	Male	Female	Rate Downham Mkt.	Rate AD.C.
31	17	14	12.05	12.37

DEATHS from Puerperal Causes.....Nil

Puerperal and post-Abortive Sepsis.....Nil
Other puerperal causes.....Nil

INFANT MORTALITY - rate per 1,000 live births

	Total	Male	Female	Rate	Rate AD.C.
Legitimate.....	2	1	1	4.7	31.46
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-		29.75
					49.73
	2	1	1		

DEATHS FROM

Cancer(all ages).....8.
Measles (all ages).....Nil.
Whooping Cough.(all ages).....Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2-years of age).....Nil.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29167358

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Public Health Emergency Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

DIPHTHERIA ANTOXIN.

In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria (outside London) Order 1910 - a supply of Antitoxin is always available free of charge from the Sanitary Inspector, Town Hall Annexe for use by Medical Practioners in the town.
Children Immunised 1946, 0-5-years 48, - 5-15-years 62.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The District is admirably served in this respect by the Downham Market Red Cross Ambulance Society for non-Infectious Cases.

HOSPITAL.

The District is served by two hospitals:-
(a) The West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital.
(b) The Downham Public Assistance Institution.

Accommodation for Infectious Diseases:- County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Wisbech Water Works Company supply the greater part of the District but there are still far too many properties supplied by wells and pumps.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Practically the whole of the town is sewered. The old brick sewers are however in poor condition.

DISINFECTION.

This is carried out as and when required by the Councils workmen.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919, INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Manholes on the Sewers are periodically treated with Rat Bait.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing & Scavenging is carried out by the Councils workmen.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No case of infestation by bed bugs was discovered.

HOUSING.

Tenders have been approved for the erection of 40-houses on the Retreat Estate. Messrs. J.L.Kier & Co, Setch, King's Lynn are the Contractors.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

1946

Table No.1.

Causes of Death.

Causes of Death.	Male	Female	Total.
1.Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.			
2.Cerebro-spinal fever.			
3.Scarlet Fever			
4.Whooping Cough.			
5.Diphtheria.			
6.Tuberculosis of respiratory system.			
7.Other forms of tuberculosis.			
8.Syphilitic diseases.			
9.Influenza.			
10.Measles.			
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis			
12. Acute infective encephalitis.			
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) uterus (f)	1	-	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-	1
15. Cancer of breast.	-	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites.	4	1	5
17. Diabetes.	1	-	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	2	1	3
19. Heart disease.	3	5	8
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.	-	1	1
21. Bronchitis.	1	-	1
22. Pneumonia.	-	-	-
23. Other respiratory diseases.	1	-	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2-years.	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	-	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis.	1	2	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis.	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.	-	-	-
31. Premature birth.	1	-	1
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases.	-	1	1
33. Suicide.	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents.	-	-	-
35. Other violent causes.	-	-	-
36. All other causes.	1	2	3
All causes.	17	14	31

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.1946

(Other than Tuberculosis)

Table.2.

Disease.	-0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65 &	All Ages.
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	2	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Totals.	2	-	-	2	1	6	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	15

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1946.

Table 3.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory Male	New Cases. Respiratory Female	New Cases. Non-respiratory Male	New Cases. Non-respiratory Female.	Deaths. Respiratory Male	Deaths. Respiratory Female	Deaths. Non-respiratory Male	Deaths. Non-respiratory Female.
- 1								
- 5								
- 15		2						
- 25								
- 35								
- 45								
- 55								
- 65								
65 &								
Totals.		2						